

From: [Eoc, Epahq](#)
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 10, US Ecology Waste Disposal Facility Explosion, Grand View, ID (NRC #1230755)
Date: Sunday, November 18, 2018 7:22:21 PM

This report is being sent as a bcc to prevent accidental Reply to All messages.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



EOC Spot Report: Region 10, US Ecology Waste Disposal Facility Explosion, Grand View, ID (NRC #1230755)

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of November 18, 2018 at 22:15 ET**

Overview: At approximately 09:15 Mountain Standard Time on November 17, an explosion occurred at the US Ecology Subtitle C disposal facility in Grand View, Owyhee County, Idaho. The explosion took place in a building used to process magnesium powder. It was estimated that approximately 7,000 pounds of magnesium powder were present in the building. Magnesium is an alkali metal and reacts strongly when coming in contact with water although the exact cause of the explosion is not definitively known. The initial explosion was followed by a second explosion approximately an hour later.

Three workers from the facility were treated and released from a local hospital, and one worker was killed. The building where the magnesium was located was significantly damaged, and the explosion caused damage to surrounding buildings, several of which reportedly contained flammable hazardous waste. Damage from the explosion compromised US Ecology's ability to access and provide definitive information on the chemical contents of the damaged and surrounding structures. There were no initial concerns about impacts to off-site air quality. The nearest population center (Grand View, Idaho) is approximately 10 miles away, and there are some isolated rural residences approximately ½ mile from the US Ecology facility.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Actions: The Incident Commander with Owyhee County Sheriff's office requested assistance from a State-wide HazMat Team with decontamination of the injured workers, so they can be admitted to the local hospital for treatment, and recovery of the missing worker. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) provided technical assistance to the HazMat Team. The Incident Commander and HazMat Team demobilized from the scene late on the evening of November 17 after recovery of the fatally injured worker. The facility is regulated under the State of Idaho RCRA program.

EPA Actions: An EPA Region 10 OSC responded to the scene from Boise early on Sunday, November 18, and formed a Unified Command with US Ecology. In addition to the reactive magnesium powder, the destroyed building also contained approximately 75 drums of flammable liquids. Just outside the destroyed building, approximately 40 drums and totes of other hazardous wastes and almost 100 drums containing magnesium powder were staged awaiting treatment. A number of these drums and totes were damaged in the explosions.

Throughout the day on November 18, US Ecology gathered resources and formulated a plan to enter the impacted area starting Monday, November 19. The operational objectives are to safely remove all drums and totes of hazardous waste from the impacted area. EPA START contractors are en route to assist with air monitoring and oversight of the operations.

Media Interest: Moderate

<https://www.kivitv.com/news/explosion-at-us-ecology-idaho-site-near-grand-view>

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/local/article221871790.html>

-

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Pete Oh, Senior Watch Officer
U.S Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20004
202-564-3850
eoc.epahq@epa.gov